

**Mayor's Council on Disability  
Chattanooga, Tennessee**

**Meeting Minutes  
October 2, 2006**

**Sandra Booher, Chairperson  
Bea Lyons, Vice Chair  
Katie Jones, Secretary  
Jill Hindman, Parliamentarian**

**Board Members:**

**Kim Williams  
Jim Queen  
Dr Rick Rader  
Mary Ann Schenk  
Kathy Purnell  
Gina Turley  
Jennifer Nichols  
Susan Crisp  
Virginia Piper  
Karl Epperson  
Annie Ruth Palmer**

**Matt Lea, Liaison**

**Assistant to Mayor for Special Projects**

**Michelle Michaud, Liaison**

**Communications Director Mayor's Office**

**Chairperson Sandra Booher welcomed those in the audience to the Mayor's Council on Disability Meeting, Monday, October 2, 2006.**

**Members of the Council present:**

**Sandra Booher  
Katie Jones  
Rick Rader  
Jennifer Nichols  
Jill Hindman  
Karl Epperson  
Bea Lyons**

**Minutes read and stood as corrected**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> is Disabilities awareness month. Any activities to be reported please do so, so we can post them to the web. White Cane day is also October 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Rader passed around handouts regarding White Cane Safety Day. There is a White Cane law in Tennessee. All traffic is required to yield to those with White Canes, as well as those with Seeing Eye Dogs. It was requested that the Mayor issue a proclamation for this day. Go!Fest seemed to be the appropriate**

**venue to have this proclamation issued. We will look into a billboard in town to publicize this law.**

**Go!Fest meeting on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> in this room at 10:00 a.m. All booths are full with the entertainment acts being approximately 60/40 non disabled to those with disabilities. Wheelchair basketball will also be on the agenda.**

**Stigma Free: Jill Hindman is doing a project with the Anthropology professor, Lynn Miles at UTC. Students used wheelchairs, and some were also visually impaired, while navigating around the campus. The students were also given a questionnaire regarding their thoughts about disability. They were asked to define STIGMA, and only two or three people out of 30 or 40 even knew the definition of the word. Asked if they would be friends with someone with a disability and most common response was they weren't sure.**

**Another question, would they date someone with a disability? Most of the respondents, especially males, said no. Would they consider marriage? No, again mostly males. As far as having children a disabled spouse, the answer was absolutely not. The concern was that the disability would replicate itself. This study will take place 9:30 am**

**until 2:00 at the West end of the student center. Once Jill Hindman has compiled the information, she will give to Dr. Rader to present to the Stigma Board and to the Council. Recognizing that there is an interest in this type of study with physical therapy and occupational therapy students, we will also try to engage Chancellor Brown with ongoing education amongst the students.**

**October 19<sup>th</sup> will be a Neighborhood meeting for District One and District Two. The Council would like all the Neighborhood meetings to be listed on the website.**

**Bylaws: Ken Fritz, with the City Attorneys office will be back to us on these issues at the November meeting.**

**The Mayor's office is developing a plan for accessibility concerns regarding lighting on the streets, repairs, concerns, and etc will be available per the internet and also there will be a number to call.**

**Jill Hindman, Virginia Piper, and Bea Lyons did a presentation to the Neighborhoods Conference regarding disabilities, and access along with concerns for 911 and disaster planning.**

**T.C.S.W. is having a state wide conference on November 16, and they would like to have some of the Council members present. Specifically, Molly Littleton, Jennifer Piper plans to attend.**

**Carta Workshop: This year Carta is hosting the Tennessee Public Transit Association, (TIPTA) meeting in Chattanooga. Jill Hindman is on the Carta Board of Directors, this year and we have worked out breakout sessions which members of the Council can attend. Dr. Rader has agreed to participate in this with the Stigma program. The convention runs from November, 14-16, with our session on November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 3:15 to 4:15.**

**Several members met with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and they are going to meet with all the departments in the City and find out what they know about disabilities, what they think, and what do they do when someone calls and requests accommodation. They will be the central place to do that.**

**Standing Committees: The Awareness Committee and the Accessibility Committee have**

**been combined. It is important that we have service on these committees. This would be a great time to include some of the people in the community that aren't on the Council as well. Bea Lyons, has volunteered to be Chair of the Nominations Committee, and we have six committees. Bill Lawrence from the audience, volunteered to be on the Health Care Committee. He is President of the Parkinson's support group.**

**For the visually impaired, when communicating by email, please be sure to use 18 point font and put in BOLD.**

**It appears that Hamilton County Rural was no longer eligible for funding. There are some areas of Hamilton County that are still considered rural in which Sethra, of the people in Dunlap, can operate. It was asked the in the TPO meetings for Sethra to tell what areas are service so people who call in would be able to find out. STS still does not provide TennCare transportation for Hamilton County.**

**With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2006 with the December meeting on Monday, December 4, 2006.**

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Katye Jones, Secretary**